

CENTRAL EASTSIDE



Central Eastside Urban Renewal Advisory Committee (URAC)

April 12, 2010

4:00-5:00 p.m.

Goodwill Industries

1943 SE 6th Ave

Meeting Summary

URAC members present: Susan Lindsay, Buckman Community Association; Rick Michaelson, Member at-Large; Linda Nettekoven Hosford Abernethy Neighborhood Alternate; Susan Pearce, Hosford Abernethy Neighborhood; Jeff Reaves, Member at-Large; Steve Russell, Kerns Neighborhood Association Alternate; Michael Whitmore, Kerns Neighborhood Association; Eric Shoemaker, Member-at-Large

Guests: Lee Perlman, freelance writer; Carter MacNichol, Shields Oblatz, Johnson; Rob Burchfield, PBOT Nancy Oberschmidt; Mary Ann Schwab, Sunnyside Neighborhood Association; Matt Jacobson Sizzle Pie Relapse RSE1; Tim Holmes BBH CAC; Rob Burchfield, PBOT

PDC Staff: Steven Shain, Joleen Jensen-Classen

Call to order/Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Susan Lindsay at 4: 10 p.m.

Jeff Reaves announce a potential conflict of interest with the topic under discussion because he was on the design team for the project. Eric Shoemaker announced a potential conflict of interest with the topic under discussion because he is related to key leaders in the project.

March 2010 Meeting Summary

Rick Michaelson moved approval of the meeting summary. Jeff Reaves provided the second and the motion carried unanimously.

Chair's Statement

It is not normally the purview of our committee to delve into detailed concerns about funded projects. This case is a bit unusual as one of our committee members felt that there was never a full vetting of the siting in the proper place, that being the CAC...and, that it is a critical safety issue in his represented neighborhood.

Michael Whitmore restated his concern from the March 8, 2010 CES URAC meeting that placing the streetcar stop at Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd and Couch on the south side of the street created a hazard for pedestrians. He also stated that having the stop in this location caused pedestrians to re-cross Couch to get to the Convention Plaza site.

Carter MacNichol from Shields Oblatz and Johnson, the firm designing the streetcar, explained that all decisions regarding the process had a public process. Both the Streetcar Advisory Committee and the

Burnside Bridgehead CAC were involved in the planning decisions for the project. Carter went on to explain that the problem with placing the stop on the north side of Couch could result in serious safety issues for pedestrians. The streetcar does not control the traffic lights and is timed to arrive at the Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd and Couch stop on a green light and proceed to the south side of the street to stop. Stopping on the north side of the street while the light is green could cause motorists to pull out and around the streetcar and possibly hit pedestrians they cannot see because of the streetcar. It is not possible to have the streetcar stop on red at this location because all the signals in synchronized. In addition by stopping on the south side of the street, cars turning right onto Couch can move more freely with less traffic slowdowns.

Rob Burchfield with PBOT presented diagrams that illustrated the problem. (See attached). The far right lane on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd in addition to being a right turn onto Couch is also a continuous lane through the intersection to Burnside.

Rob explained there will be curb extension on all the pedestrian crossings to increase safety and expressed willingness to look at other options as well. Michael suggested some type of bollard at the crossing at Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd and Couch since drivers will be making a fast turn from Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd to Couch.

Tim Holmes, a member of the BBH CAC expressed the concern of his neighbors that the couplet will make Davis a "freeway" because Couch has stops on each block. He suggested that PBOT consider more stops on Davis to slow traffic down.

Brad Maslin also stated the need to continue working to protect the safety of pedestrians at this site.

Rob agreed to take the concerns back to his team at PBOT and provide the URAC with some solutions for their consideration.

Michael announced the annual Kerns and Buckman Neighborhood Clean-up Saturday, April 17, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 2625 E Burnside St in the parking lot behind Jones Kendall Sauer Insurance Building. For questions or more information, contact Michael at (503)233-0305 or (503)702-5069.

The next CES URAC will be May 10, 2010 4-6 p.m. at Goodwill Industries.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Submitted by Joleen Jensen-Classen, PDC Public Participation Manager